American Mission Seminary Batticotta Jaffna Ceylon 18nth of Oct. 1

My Dear Benefactors,

I am happy that God has, in his mercy, preserved my life to the present time so as to enable me to write a few lines. I have heretofore written to you two letters but I have no hope of their safe arrival to your hands, I will give a short description of my past and present circumstances.

I was borne in the District of Manepy east of this place about three miles distant. I was not educated in my Native tongue but was trained in all heathen practices and notions relative to the rites and ceremonies of the Hindoo-worship; but by the abundant mercies of God at the age of 10 became acquainted with American Missionaries who received with all kindness and readiness and was brought up by Mr. L. Spaulding in the boarding school at Tillipally & was instructed in the rudiments of English-language.

I was admitted into the Seminary on 26th of Sept. 1842. Some of the studies which I have gone through, in the Seminary are; English-grammar both of Lennie & Hall, Joice's Arithmetic, Woodbridge's and Parley's-geography, Little Phillosopher, Algebra &c. My present studies are Rob's History, Euclid on supplement book 2nd, Rise & Progress on the Soul &c. And scriptical lessons on every Sabbath.

In connexion with these, I have a particular thing to state. We have now 9 Missionaries and I suppose that the Christian Religion will be prevailed on every part of India. In this Seminary are 110 boys, of whom 50 are church members, and they are divided into five Classes. These classes are under the direction of five Superintendants and Revd Henry. Richard. Hoisington the principal of the Seminary. I have parents, three brothers, and a sister; and I am the younger of all. One of them who named John. Homer was regularly educated in the Seminary and is now a most useful helper to the missionaries.

My Dear Benefactor, I am sorry for not receiving letters from you when others are in the habit of receiving letters from their Benefactors.

In regard to my religious affairs I must with grief and sorrow confess that though for a long time educated in the knowledge of God's Holy word, yet Satan had so much influence over my depraved heart that he kept me in his thraldom untill the year 1836. When by the mighty hand of God I was to see the most miserable condition in which I was baptized and joined to the church- which was on June 1837. And my present feelings make me happier than any other condition provided by the riches of the world. I always remember the verse "To whom much is given of him much shall be required". It is true that I have received more than any of my friends; and therefore I am required to do more for the glory of God. The attainments of knowledge and wisdom, which I have received by your charitable and kind efforts urge me to imitate the doings of Apostles and especially of Christ. It is impossible that I or any who has an enlightened mind could think that they have not been supplied with all good things and wants which were received from the childhood down to the present time; therefore I may conclude that all who have a clear knowledge upon this subject would agree to my suggestion.

If the almighty preserve my life and help me I think I will try to propogate the gospel to the dying and hell-deserving souls. I have nothing more to say than to render you my most hearty and unfeighned thanks for your charicatable contribution for my support and to pray to God that he may lengthen the days of your life that you may do more good. You would oblige me very much by a line from you.

My dear Benefactors, pray for me and for the promotions of the missionaries works in this Island, and with my great gratitude,

I remain
your beneficiary. Samuel. Miller

Samuel is good boy, a regular member of our Church, & stands very well as a student. He has had no assistance in this letter from any one. He is a member of the 2d Class - about two years & a half in complete his course in the Seminary. — Edward M. Miller, supported by Mrs. Miller is a mem of the first class, - a pleasant boy of middling scholarship. He is expected to join the Church next Sabbath.
H. R. Hoisington.

To the Theo. Society
Theo. Seminary
Princeton
N. J.
U. S. A.

Forwarded from St. Helena by
W. Carrol
U States
Consular Agent

Recd. Jan. 1839
Ans Nov 28. 1839
Saml. Miller

LETTER.
(SEPT. 18, 1838).